

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act, which the House will consider today.

This bill would create a national affordable housing trust fund to be administered by HUD, the Housing and Urban Development Department. The trust would increase the supply of decent quality affordable housing, especially for low-income families.

Owning a home is an American value, but many are not able to acquire that dream. With rising housing costs throughout the country, affordable housing for low-income Americans has become nearly impossible.

For example, in 2006 Los Angeles County residents needed to make at least \$50,000 a year to afford a two-bedroom apartment. That income is significantly more than what social workers, preschool teachers, and in-home health care aides earn on average. The gap between wages and housing costs in Los Angeles County and nationwide has skyrocketed.

I urge my colleagues today to vote for the final passage of H.R. 2895 so we can help all our constituents realize the American Dream.

U.S. ECONOMY AND TAXES

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, America's economy is increasingly complex. While we hear reports of uncertainty, we also see many fundamental signs of health in the economy.

The latest good news is the recent jobs report that found the economy added 110,000 jobs in September and 89,000 jobs in August, a massive turnaround from the previously reported loss of 4,000 jobs in August.

With 200,000 new jobs added to the economy in the last 2 months, we once again have proof that Republican economic policies of cutting taxes to spur growth are still working. But we cannot keep our economy thriving on the tax cuts of yesterday. Congress must work to keep taxes low for America's working families.

We have already seen a Democratic budget that assumes a tax increase of nearly \$400 billion. If there are signs of uncertainty about the future of our economy, such a financial hit to American taxpayers would undoubtedly undermine the positive steps Republicans took to ensure economic growth and stability.

Everyone wants a strong U.S. economy. Let's keep it that way by preserving low taxes and not preying on the wallets of the families that work hard to keep this economy humming.

□ 1015

IN SUPPORT OF SCHIP

(Mr. SESTAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of the SCHIP bill, which will provide health insurance for 4 million uninsured children, expanded dental care, and, for the first time, treating mental disabilities and mental illness on a par with physical disability. The bill also contains premium assistance subsidies, so that at least 70 percent of these children's parents remain in employer-based private health insurance plans. But I rise most because of what I saw when my 4-year-old daughter was given 3 to 9 months to live and we lived on a cancer ward in the city. And this Nation, because of my military service, gave me the best health care possible for her to have an opportunity, her roommate was a young 2½-year-old boy diagnosed with acute leukemia whose parents did not have health insurance and social workers had to discuss whether that boy would, with my daughter, have an opportunity to live into life.

I rise in support of this bill for that young boy.

STOP OVERTAXATION AND OVERSPENDING

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that Democrats remain ready to tax and spend as much as they can. Whether it's a war tax, an Internet tax, or a cigarette tax that will overly burden low-income families, the first Democrat solution seems to be to tax hard-working Americans.

And when they are not trying to raise taxes on American workers, they are spending their hard-earned money at reckless levels. The \$23 billion in new domestic spending this majority has proposed is just another sign that they feel they know better how to spend your own money.

We must restore fiscal sanity to government, but we should do that by making the necessary decisions here in Washington to save taxpayer money and spend wisely. Both parties need to pass fiscally responsible appropriations legislation rather than wait until we are forced to vote on a giant omnibus spending bill that will be full of earmarks. Let's stop asking Americans to pay for government's inability to get the job done.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

IRAQIS MUST RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I just had the opportunity to travel in a bipartisan codel to the Middle East, particularly to Baghdad.

Robin Williams had an album at one time, "Reality, What a Concept." I thought about it while I was there. I saw a lot of reality. I saw our soldiers in life-and-death situations and doing it in a heroic fashion. They told me about their need to be redeployed over there not every 15 months, but every 12 months because the pressure is wearing on them and on their personal lives. The divorce rate is high, and it really takes a toll on their lives. They see the people working for the private companies over there making so much more money than them, the contractors, and they say, why should we re-enlist. But they do it because they're proud Americans.

But then we met with Prime Minister Maliki, and he said the sectarian war was over. Well, Prime Minister Maliki, it's not, and until the Iraqis deal with reality and deal with the Sunni and Shia differences, there won't be peace in Iraq and our soldiers will be working for a group that doesn't understand the problem, which is their own internal politics. The Iraqis must resolve their differences.

MORATORIUM ON EARMARKS

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, new earmark reforms required that Members' names be attached to their earmarks. Unfortunately, transparency alone has done little but air our dirty laundry without cleaning it. Transparency is not a substitute for oversight. Earmarks have names next to them now, but little else has changed. The House has approved thousands and thousands and thousands of earmarks so far this year, and more are likely to be added in the conference committees. However, we know full well that not all of these earmarks were given the scrutiny that Federal expenditures deserve.

Every week, I highlight an earmark by making an admittedly lame joke about it, but we need a process that inspires confidence, not jokes or humor. And, unfortunately, transparency alone has not gotten us there.

Until this body has a process that can trusted, Mr. Speaker, I believe the taxpayers would be best served by a moratorium on earmarks, and I will soon introduce legislation to impose such a moratorium.

OVERRIDE THE PRESIDENT'S VETO OF SCHIP LEGISLATION

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it was important to allow our Republican

colleagues an extra 2 weeks for the veto override vote. It's important for them to get the facts right, important for them to listen to their constituents and actually read the bill, not just accept the President's talking points.

It's ironic that one of his arguments is concern about adults who are covered by SCHIP. Yet the States have been encouraged to experiment to help uninsured working families, and the White House, George Bush, has approved those waivers that allowed them that coverage.

The bill he vetoed was actually more restrictive than current law. It would end coverage for adults after a transition period. It would prohibit the Bush administration, or any administration, from approving more waivers for new States, and parents already enrolled with Bush approval would get reduced matching funds.

It's time to stop making phony arguments; to listen to the Governors and the overwhelming majority of our constituents and override this cruel veto of health care for our children.

NATIONAL SAVE FOR RETIREMENT WEEK

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this year National Save for Retirement Week is going to take place October 21st through the 27th. National Save for Retirement Week is the first congressionally endorsed, formal event publicly urging employers to promote the benefits of saving for retirement, and encourage their employees to take full advantage of employer-sponsored retirement and savings plans. Hopefully this week will make employees more aware of how critical it is to save now for their financial future and learn how to take advantage of free money when saving for retirement by contributing enough to the retirement plan to receive the company match.

To learn more about National Save for Retirement Week, visit choosetosave.org. I urge you to take charge of your retirement now.

CHIP BILL & BUSH'S VETO, THE PRESIDENT'S RHETORIC VS. REALITY

(Mr. HARE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Bush used his veto pen to strike down a bill that would provide health coverage to 10 million children. In explaining his veto, the President used rhetoric that has no basis in reality. The President claims that the focus of the SCHIP should be on poor children rather than to expand the program. But the fact is this bill does not expand the program, it simply allows

for the coverage of more kids who are already eligible. As Republican Senator HATCH pointed out, for those who argue that it's out of control, 92 percent of all the kids who will be covered by this bill will be families under 200 percent of the poverty level.

The President also falsely says that the bill would cover kids in families earning \$83,000 per year, but no State covers kids at that level now, and the bill actually reduces Federal support for coverage of children at higher income levels. The President's claims are simply wrong.

Mr. Speaker, the question now for House Republicans is, are they going to stand behind the President's false claims about the children's health bill, or will they join us in overriding the President's veto?

CHRISTIAN BLIND MISSION

(Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of World Sight Day and the tireless leadership of organizations like the Christian Blind Mission headquartered in Greenville, South Carolina.

Christian Blind Mission is an international aid organization that specializes in improving the quality of life for the blind in the world's poorest countries.

Each year, organizations like Christian Blind Mission recognize World Sight Day as a time to focus global attention on vision and blindness. This year, World Sight Day will take place tomorrow, October 11, and will emphasize the tragedy of blindness in children. There are an estimated 1.4 million blind children in the world, the majority of whom live in Third World countries. Remarkably, 75 percent of all major blinding conditions are preventable or curable, and the Christian Blind Mission has taken the lead in performing over one-half million cataract surgeries and distributing over one-half million tubes of tetracycline eye ointment to combat trachoma.

Once again, it's an honor to recognize Christian Blind Mission-USA for their humanitarian efforts worldwide. Every day, thousands of children receive the gift of sight because of the hard work and initiative that organizations like the Christian Blind Mission provide.

SCHIP OVERRIDE

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PASCRELL. It's time, Mr. Speaker, for truth in advertising to correct some of the misinformation being used to justify President Bush's inexplicable veto of the children's health care bill.

The bipartisan Children's Health Care Program reauthorization does not

expand the Children's Health Insurance Program; it maintains current law. The agreement is targeted towards State needs. Responsible spending to cover low-income children is incentivized in the bill.

The belief that SCHIP will lead to socialized medicine is nothing more than a red herring. The fact is that the bipartisan compromise combines the best of public and private approaches to provide health coverage for children.

Now for the biggest lie: Those siding with President Bush's claim that the agreement provides health coverage to illegal immigrant children are also wrong. Undocumented immigrants, illegal immigrants, have never been eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP. Read the bill. Read the law.

The bipartisan agreement requires proof of citizenship before enrollment in SCHIP, similar to requirements for the Medicare program. Get it right, tell the truth to the American people, and get on with it.

OPPOSING ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

(Mr. WHITFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose a nonbinding resolution that will have serious negative consequences to our national security.

H. Res. 106, the Armenian Genocide resolution, is a dangerously shortsighted and controversial resolution that is being marked up in the Foreign Affairs Committee today. This resolution will jeopardize our relationship with a strong NATO ally, Turkey, and hinder our ability to combat the global war on terror. This resolution makes assertions about facts that historians to this date still debate.

I might add that every living former Secretary of State, both Democrat and Republican, recently sent a letter to the Speaker stating that passage of this resolution would "strain our relations with Turkey, endanger our national security interests, including the safety of our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan."

I would also point out that in today's Washington Post in an editorial, it said that "passage of the Armenian Genocide resolution would be dangerous and grossly irresponsible." I hope the Foreign Affairs Committee today will reject this resolution.

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE CARE

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, we must begin to think differently in America and begin to work together to guarantee universal access to affordable care for every citizen everywhere in these United States, and, without question, to all of our Nation's children on whose future we all depend.